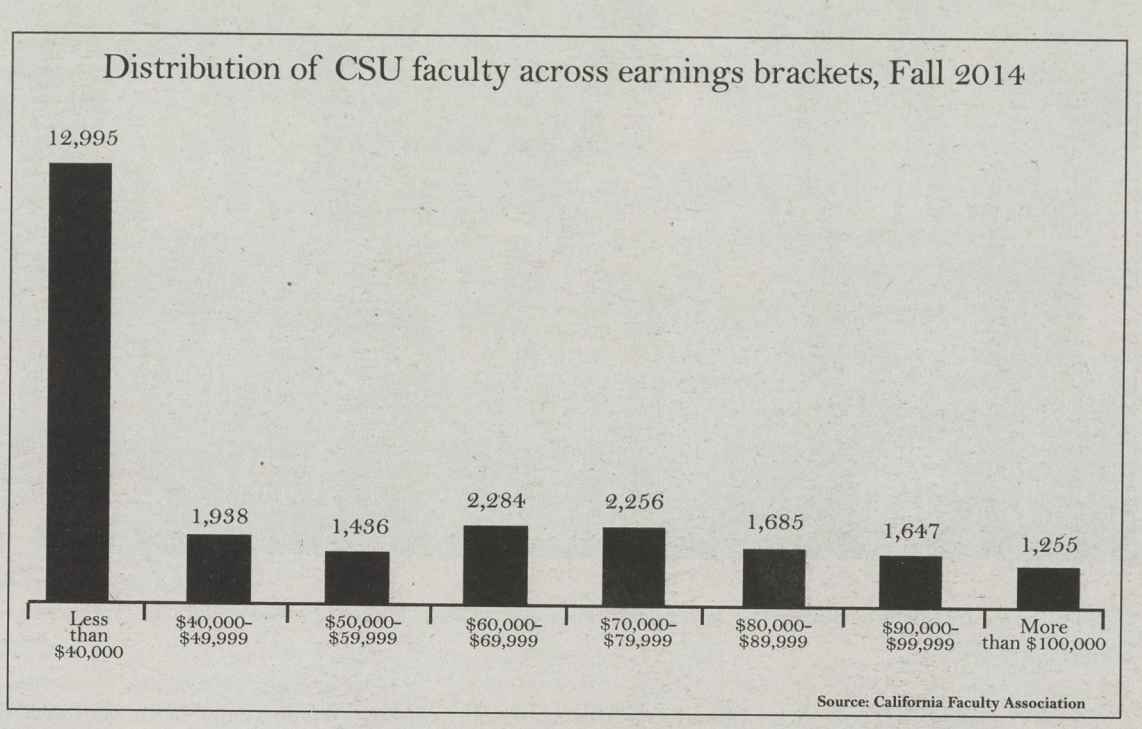
California State University, Long Beach
DAILY 49ER
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CSU SALARY DROUGHT

The CFA comments on the ten-year stagnation of faculty salaries .

By Nicca Panggat
Contributing Writer



Firefighter	$125,000
Police Officer	$97,500
Nurse	$87,480
Car sales representative	$79,000
Accountant	$75,870
K-12 Teacher	$73,396
Truck Driver	$55,000

The California Faculty Association released on Tuesday the first of a series of four "White Papers," which is a report that accuses California State University administrators of failing to invest in student success.

Titled "Race to the Bottom: CSU's 10-year Failure to Fund its Core Mission," the first paper is an analysis of pay trends for professors, librarians, counselors and coaches within the system.

The CFA, a union that represents over 23,000 educators, said that despite tuition hikes and increases in state funding, the CSU spending on faculty salaries has remained flat and unchanged over the last ten years.

"When compared to other university systems around the country... the CSU stands out for its unparalleled failure to improve faculty salaries or even to protect them from the ravages of inflation," the report said.

The paper gives the example of the average faculty salary at UC San Francisco, which was adjusted for inflation from 2004 and 2013 and rose by $16,138.

At California State University, Long Beach, the difference in average faculty salary between those years was an overarching loss of $9,704 when adjusted for inflation, according to the report.

The report notes that almost half of CSU faculty is hired on a part-time basis, meaning that the reported earnings are actually less than the base salary often quoted. CSU faculty earn about $45,000 per year before taxes and other deductions, and part-time faculty make less than $38,000 in gross earnings per year, according to the report.

"Even if all faculty were working on full-time contracts, the average salary for CSU faculty would only have been $63,000 in Fall 2014," the report stated. "Half of all CSU faculty would still have had a salary of $55,000 per year or less."

As of Jan. 14, CSU Management notified CFA of four different salary increases, with the first implemented on Sunday, according to the CFA website.

"While we are pleased to see money finally making it into the hands of faculty, the fact is that it has taken way too long," said Kevin Wehr, the president of CFA's Capitol Chapter and vice chair of CFA's Bargaining Team. "I would have liked to see these raises implemented on January 1."

CFA representatives were also on hand at an Assembly hearing on education finance, according to the Sacramento Bee.

"We call on [CSU Chancellor Timothy White] to… shift system priorities so that they better align with the CSUs core mission," the paper said in its closing statement.

"That realignment of priorities is critical if the CSU is to succeed in providing a high-quality university education to the millions of graduates our state will need in the future."

Pedaling for a change

A CSULB Pi Kappa Phi fraternity member biked thousands of miles last summer to make a difference for children with disabilities.

By Madison Moore
Contributing Writer

Four thousand, two hundred seventy miles, ten weeks and one bike humbled Brandon Ratner, who pedaled from coast to coast, discovering the philanthropic roots of Greek life.

Ratner, a junior business accounting major at California State University, Long Beach, completed his first Trans-America route in the summer of 2014 through Journey of Hope, a philanthropy program for his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. The trip began in Seattle, Washington and ended in Washington, D.C.

"The purpose was to ride bikes across the country to raise funds and awareness for disabled people who were scattered through various facilities, which we would ride to every day," Ratner said.

After riding about 80 miles per day, the 19 cyclists and nine crewmembers he traveled with took part in friendship visits. Ratner said that the team would stay at the facilities, eat dinner, exchange stories and play games during their time with the disabled children and teens.

"They counted the days down from Christmas until we arrived. They wanted my autograph. It was a priceless feeling," Ratner said. "The smiles these people exuded made every tough mile or hour on the bike so worth it."

During one friendship visit, Ratner built a connection with a teenager who had to give up playing football after an accident that caused a brain injury.

"It affected his whole course in life, but he promised us that we inspired him so much that he was going to ride his bike cross-country one day," Ratner said.

Out of all three Journey of Hope routes, Ratner was the only rider to not miss one day or mile of biking. However, he said it wasn't an easy task.

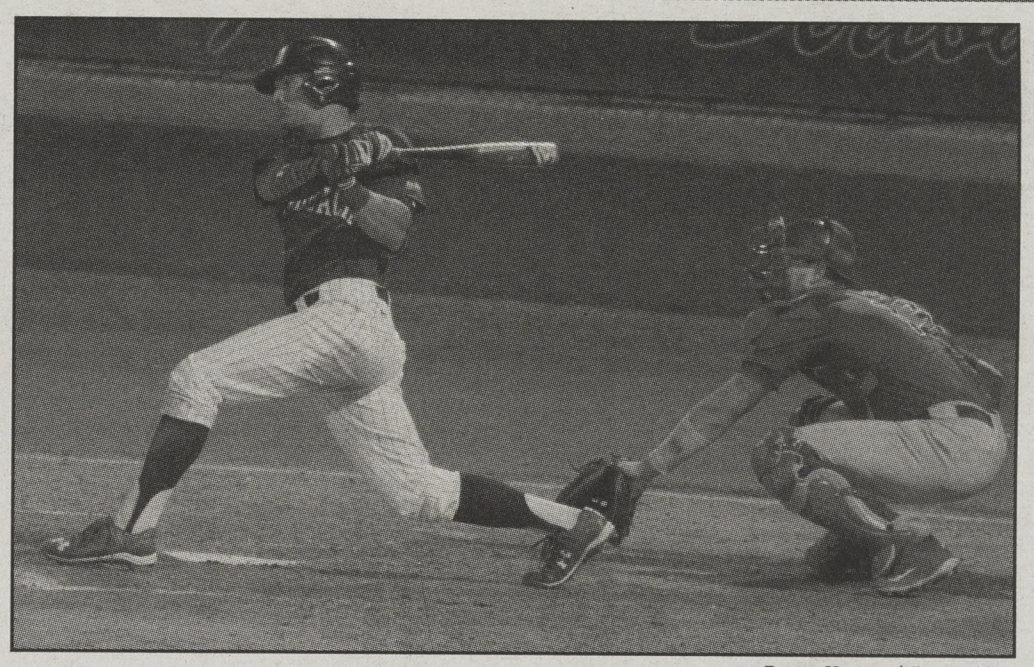
The team was about 2,000 miles into the trip when Ratner's knee began to swell up, making it difficult for him to pedal. Ratner got off his bike and asked himself if he could ride 30 more miles, knowing he would regret his decision if he stopped.

"How could I quit when I'm riding for people who can't quit?" Ratner said.

Despite the setback, Ratner continued to pedal on with his team feeling

See **BIKING**, page 5

Baseball



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

Long Beach State right fielder Zack Rivera hit the ball two times out of five at bats and scored a run for the Dirtbags against Loyola Marymount in the fourth inning on Tuesday at Blair Field.

The Lions roar

Dirtbags lose to Loyola Marymount 7-6.

By Eddie Rivera
Contributing Writer

Loyola Marymount snapped the Long Beach State baseball team's three-game winning streak on Tuesday night at Blair Field.

The Lions took the lead in the seventh and won the game 7-6.

Freshman center fielder Tristan Mercadel jumpstarted the Dirtbags' (8-4) offense in the second inning when he doubled down the right field line. A double by freshman David Banuelos kept it going when he smashed one to left-field to bring in two runs and the lead for the Dirtbags 2-0.

The Lions (8-4) came back in the third when sophomore shortstop David Fletcher ripped a double to deep center and Mercadel dropped the ball allowing two runs for Loyola Marymount. A successful double-steal of second base and home allowed Fletcher to score and gave the Lions a lead 3-2.

"Obviously that's a catchable ball," LBSU head coach Troy Buckley said. "We gave them too many free opportunities."

The Dirtbags tied the game 3-3 when Lions sophomore left-hander

See **LOSS TO LIONS**, page 7

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OH KALE, YEA!

Student Health Services turns Maxson Plaza into a nutrition hub.

BY ELEXIS DELEON-BRYANT
Contributing Writer



ALEXA RAMIREZ | DAILY 49ER
Members of the Health Resource Center host an informational booth at Maxson Plaza for National Nutrition Month on Tuesday.

California State University, Long Beach students bit into a healthy lifestyle in celebration of National Nutrition Month.

At an information table outside of Brotman Hall on Tuesday, Student Health Services volunteers and "Wellness Warriors" measured students' Body Mass Indexes with BMI monitors. They also handed out pamphlets on serving sizes, weight loss and healthy eating to advise those students with limited time and no money.

"We see the outcomes of poor diets and lack of exercise," Heidi Burkey, the coordinator of the Health Resource Center, said via email. "And also understand the importance of young adults learning to make changes now before they start to have negative health outcomes."

The Student Health Center started Peer Nutrition Counseling on Monday to kick off National Nutrition Month. Counseling sessions consist of a one-hour free session tailored to fit each individual's needs, according to the Health Resource Center website.

Burkey said counselors at SHS focus on educating students to eat more fruits and vegetables, portion control and preparing food at home in a cost effective and healthy way.

Students can also meet with a nutrition counselor in the Beach Balance office on the second floor of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, according to the SRWC website.

Beach Balance Student Assistant Anna Carter said that students seeking counsel want to eat better, lose weight and learn about healthy weight gain. She said that because students are constantly on the go, they eat on the go instead of eating a nutritious meal.

5.2 million college students in the United States are obese, and of adults aged 20 and over, 35 percent are obese. Nearly 70 percent of adults aged 20 and over are at least overweight, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The common mistakes college students make when it comes to nutrition are eating a lot of fast food and not exercising on a regular basis, Burkey said.

"Often students don't realize how much money they spend on eating fast food or junk food," Burkey said. "[They] think they don't have enough money to eat healthy, which is untrue."

Linda Meng, the vice president of Health Science Student Association and a senior health science major, said that eating too many servings is one of the main nutritional mistakes students make. She also said that men who work out often tend to eat too much protein and women tend to eat too many carbs and sweets.

"[It's] mostly just portion control," Meng said.

The MyPlate initiative released by the United States Department of Agriculture recommends fruits and vegetables take up half of the plate and the other half is split between protein and grains, half of which should be whole grains.

Students can also attend one hour Nutrition Workshops held once per week in the Health Resource Center to learn about reading food labels, what a portion size is and other information.

Feds raid alleged Chinese 'birth tourism' operations in California

Federal agents raided about 20 locations in three Southern California counties early Tuesday as part of an investigation targeting "birth tourism" schemes in which pregnant Chinese women travel to the United States on fraudulent visas so that their children will be born U.S. citizens.

Search warrants were served at the homes of people federal authorities suspected of running the operations as well as at apartment complexes in Irvine, Rancho Cucamonga, Rowland Heights and Walnut where pregnant women were allegedly being housed.

According to affidavits unsealed Tuesday, operators charged Chinese women tens of thousands of dollars for services that guided expectant mothers through obtaining tourist visas, coaching them on successfully making their way into the country and housing them for months as they awaited giving birth.

The raids represent a rare federal crackdown against a widespread practice of foreign nationals giving birth in the U.S. Many agencies openly advertise services called "maternity hotels" or "birthing centers," offering assistance in getting their newborns a U.S. passport and extolling the benefits that come with American citizenship, including public education and immigration benefits for parents.

Taiwanese, Korean and Turkish mothers are also known to engage in birth tourism, which isn't necessarily illegal.

Those behind the operations targeted in Tuesday's raids, however, are suspected of engaging in visa fraud and conspiracy by helping women falsify records for their visa screening and coaching them to falsely claim that they are traveling to the U.S. as tourists, according to affidavits filed in support of the search warrants.

No arrests were expected Tuesday, but authorities said investigators would be seizing possible evidence and interviewing the mothers for potential criminal charges against scheme operators. At a Rowland Heights apartment complex, about 40 law enforcement personnel from various agencies pounded on doors early Tuesday morning.

Teams of agents aided by interpreters entered about a dozen apartments, conducting interviews and gathering evidence such as diaper boxes and trash. Some poked flashlights into the units where residents wouldn't open the door. "Baby here," said one agent, beckoning another inside an apartment.

One affidavit quoted a law review article estimating that about 40,000 of 300,000 children born to foreign citizens in the U.S. each year were the product of birth tourism.

Women were instructed to enter the U.S. through popular destinations such as Hawaii or Las Vegas, rather than Los Angeles, where authorities are more likely to suspect birth tourism, and purchase tour packages and make hotel reservations to make their stories more convincing, according to an affidavit about an Irvine-based operation known as "You Win USA."

Authorities said they also expect to find evidence of tax fraud, money laundering and other federal crimes through the searches.

In the Irvine case, an undercover agent posed as an expectant mother and contacted a representative of "You Win USA." The agency helped her come up with a bogus employer, a false proof of income and a fake college diploma to bolster the appearance that she was likely to return to China after a brief visit, according to the affidavit.

A China-based "trainer" assigned to help "package" the visa application asked for a full-length frontal and side photo of the undercover agent's belly to see how visible her pregnancy was, agents wrote in the affidavit.

"I just need to see what your belly is like right now," the trainer said, according to the affidavit.

Agents also wrote that the scheme defrauded hospitals at which the women gave birth.

Even though the mothers paid birth tourism operators between $15,000 and $50,000 for the service, they paid local hospitals nothing or a reduced sum for uninsured, low-income patients, according to the affidavit.

More than 400 women associated with the Irvine location have given birth at one Orange County hospital since 2013, agents wrote in the affidavit.

One of the women paid $4,080 out of $28,845 in hospital bills when her bank account showed charges at Wynn Las Vegas and purchases made at Rolex and Louis Vuitton stores, the affidavit said.

—Victoria Kim and Frank Shyong Los Angeles Times

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GOT AN OPINION?
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CRIME BLOTTER

Police assist in apprehending suspected car thieves, kidnappers

BY COLLIN JAMES
Contributing Writer

University Police assisted the Long Beach Police Department in a traffic stop near campus on March 1 at 3:30 p.m., Lt. Richard Goodwin of the University Police said. Long Beach Police pulled over a possibly stolen car at Ximeno Blvd. and Atherton St. Goodwin said University Police were called in as back up. Police arrested all four of the vehicle's occupants for suspected involvement in a kidnapping and torture case in Long Beach. Goodwin said that the suspects were not students.

Bicycle stolen from Parking Lot 10

A student reported his bicycle stolen from the racks at Parking Lot 10 at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 24, Goodwin said. The victim, a 20-year-old male, described the bike as a grey and yellow 10-speed, Giant brand.

Suspicious vehicle reported near dorms

University Police received a report regarding a suspicious vehicle parked in Lot 20 at 9:30 p.m. on March 1, Goodwin said. The report came from a resident at the Hillside dorms. The vehicle was described as a black and white 2001 Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. Goodwin said that the vehicle was likely sold at an auction from another police agency. Goodwin said, "It was cited for the color scheme," which could have been mistaken for a police vehicle.

Police assist in search for a suspected burglar

University Police assisted the Long Beach Police Department in a search for a burglary suspect at the El Dorado Park Golf Course on Feb. 25 at 4:50 a.m., Goodwin said. University Police helped set up a perimeter while Long Beach police searched the park. The suspect was described as an African-American male who wore a blue and black hoodie. The suspect was not apprehended.

More than 1.5 percent of American babies owe their births to IVF, report says

More than 1.5 percent of babies born in 2013 owe their lives to in vitro fertilization, and fewer of them were twins or triplets, according to new figures from the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology.

A total of 63,286 babies were born as a result of 174,962 attempts to use assisted reproduction treatments, the SART report says. Both figures represent small increases from 2012. Nearly all of these babies were conceived as a result of IVF.

Fewer than 1 percent of the attempts involved gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) and zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT), both of which are more invasive than IVF.

Women younger than 35 had the most success with these fertility treatments. In this age group, attempts involving a woman's own, fresh eggs resulted in live births 40 percent of the time.

In cases where women used their own eggs that had been frozen and then thawed, the success rate was 44 percent.

The older the patient, the lower the birth rate: For women between the ages of 35 and 37, 31 percent of assisted reproduction cycles using fresh eggs ended with a baby, along with 40 percent of cycles involving previously frozen eggs.

In the 38-to-40 age group, live births resulted in 21 percent of ART cycles using fresh eggs and 35 percent of cycles using thawed eggs.

For women who were 41 or 42, the birth rate was 11 percent when using fresh eggs and 31 percent when using previously frozen eggs. In cases where women were 43 or older, 5 percent of cycles using fresh eggs and 21 percent of cycles using thawed eggs led to a baby.

For the first time, the medical society published figures on assisted reproduction attempts involving embryos donated by couples who did not plan to use them for their own families. In 2013, 1,201 such embryos were implanted in women, and 41 percnet of those transfers resulted in a live birth.

The most striking figures in the report involved the number of embryos women elected to transfer at a time. The hefty expense of fertility treatments — which isn't always covered by health insurance plans — prompts many women to transfer many embryos at once to maximize the chance that at least one will implant and make it to term.

But that also makes triplets, quadruplets and other higher-order multiples more likely — and that's dangerous for both mother and children.

So fertility specialists have made a point of encouraging women to transfer fewer embryos at a time. And it seems to be working: Twenty-three percent of women under 35 opted for a single embryo transfer in 2013, up from 15 percent the year before.

Overall, women in the youngest age group transferred an average of 1.8 embryos per cycle involving fresh eggs.

The older the women, the higher the average, which ranged from 1.9 (for the 35-to-37 cohort) to 2.8 (for those 43 and older).

In cycles involving eggs that had been frozen, the average number of embryos transferred was below 2 for all age groups.

The result was 12,085 twin births and 376 triplet births in 2013, down from 12,436 twins and 411 triplets in 2012. "

The goal of reducing the incidence of multiple pregnancies is extremely important," Dr. James Toner, the president of SART, said in a statement.

"Patients can see from the data that fewer embryos transferred do not mean a lower chance of pregnancy."

—Karen Kaplan,
Los Angeles Times

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Different champagne, same supernova ★★★★☆

'Chasing Yesterday' keeps Noel Gallagher and his High Flying Birds soaring.

By Madison D'Ornellas
Assistant News Editor

Noel Gallagher does not disappoint on his second album with his band – Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds. The self-produced album, Chasing Yesterday, was released Tuesday and is full of Gallagher's classic sound of psychedelic guitars, memorable lyrics and pulsing drums throughout the 10-track list.

To the delight of his devout fans, the ex-Oasis singer-songwriter stays afloat by composing reminiscent sounds from his past works without seeming tired or over-used.

Since the split of his Britpop-era band Oasis in 2009, Gallagher has found comfort in doing it alone. After years of feuding with his brother and former band member Liam, Gallagher seems to enjoy being in the driver's seat of his own project.

"In the Heat of the Moment," the first single from the album, already has over 1.5 million views on YouTube. The song's bluesy rock sound echoes tracks from Gallagher's four-year-old, self-titled album.

The second single off the album "Ballad of the Mighty I" is the highlight track of "Chasing Yesterday." Rhythmic tones with a hint of piano blend affectively with hopelessly-romantic lyrics like "I'll find you / Yes, I'll find you / If I gotta be the man who walks the earth alone."

"Rainman" intros the album with a melancholic ballad and is followed closely by the eerie whirrs of "The Girl with the X-Ray Eyes."

"There was no one to be seen," Gallagher croons. "No one left to hear my scream."

Although the fourth track "Lock All the Doors" carries a poppy sound, Gallagher continues to sing about a girl that he cannot reach. In "Chasing Yesterday, " Gallagher solemnly sings, hinting repeatedly about an elusive damsel.

"Chasing Yesterday" closes with yet another gloomy tune, "You Know We Can't Go Back," hinting at Gallagher's departure from Oasis.

"You know we can't go back/ If there's a time when I guess I must be leaving," Gallagher sings. "Gone are the days and the dreams we screamed out loud."

Since the split of Oasis, numerous rumors have hinted at a reunion but Gallagher blew them off during interviews with NME and Rolling Stone. His solo tour began on Tuesday at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The deluxe version of the album includes four bonus tracks, most notably "Freaky Teeth." Twangy electric guitars and hard drums give the song a longing, eager feel.

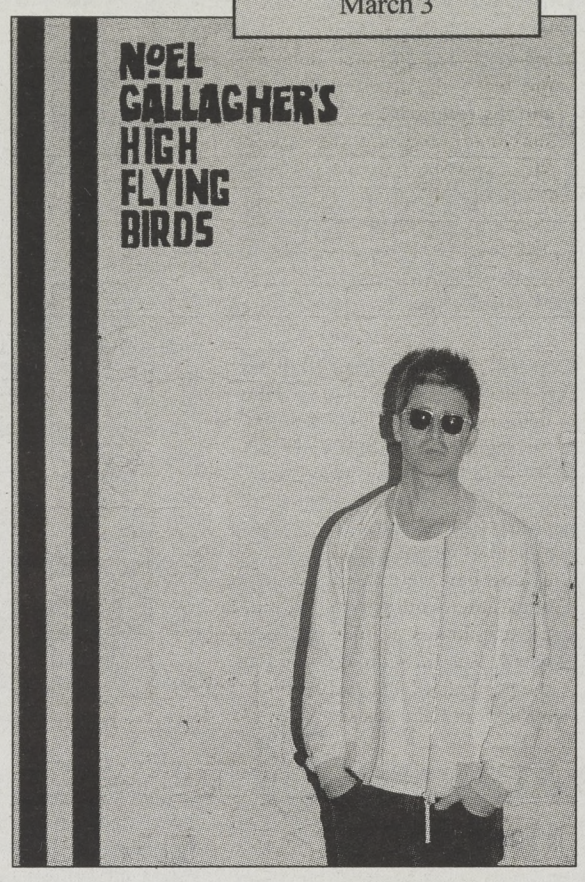
"Yet they used to love you for the way you sang your soul/ Now they've come to claim you for the night," Gallagher whines. "The ghosts that come to steal the light out of your eyes."

Collaborators on the album include ex-Smiths and current Modest Mouse member Johnny Marr, who assists Gallagher on "Ballad of the Mighty I."

"Chasing Yesterday" is Gallagher waving a white flag; his unwillingness to try something new echoes from the nostalgic and beaten sounds of his sophomore album.

Listeners might find themselves feeling sorry for the 47-year-old "Don't Look Back in Anger" crooner, but "Chasing Yesterday" proves that there is a heart in Gallagher somewhere.

"Chasing Yesterday"
Sour Mash
March 3



In his sophomore album titled "Chasing Yesterday," Ex-Oasis band member Noel Gallagher returns with a classic sound of psychedelic guitars.

Facebook

Will Smith brings "Focus" back to his talent ★★★½☆

A lifelong con artist and sexy up-and-comer show audiences the delicate balance between pursuing love and scamming for millions in the new release, 'Focus.'

By Branden Raulston
Contributing Writer

The crimedy dramance "Focus," starring Will Smith and Margot Robbie, should be on everyone's list of movies to se. It isn't the stunning and unique crime movie the previews make it out to be, but there are high-stake deals and plenty of suspense and mystery to keep audiences fixated.

With $19.1 million in sales this weekend, it whipped and choked "Fifty Shades of Grey" off its latex throne at the top of the box office.

Smith plays the role of Nicky, the life long con man who winds up in bed trying to pick the pocket of Jess, played by Robbie.

Jess is simultaneously trying to rob Nicky, but she finds that she isn't the bedroom bandit she thought she was; Nicky walks out with his knapsack full, schooling her on how the game is played.

Jess sees that Nicky is the superior swindler and ditches her partner to work for him. Nicky then spends some time showing Jess and the audience how real con artists scam and swipe.

In addition to fraudulent tricks involving more sleight of hand than a first date with Criss Angel, the duo and a team of professional thieves participate in every kind of scam and racket imaginable, until the plot twist.

Yes, this movie has a twist – or to be more accurate, twists. In fact, there are so many twists that the whole movie might be subliminal messaging for churro sales.

Fortunately for the audience, the twists walk on the right side of the line. They are near perfect, combing both the "Slap-in-the-face" and the "Go-for-lips-get-cheek" techniques.

Smith's portrayal of Nicky is well-played and nicely rounded, showing cold, criminal charm while also portraying an exposed and emotional nature. This makes the audience forget his acting in "After Earth," which made some doubt the longevity of his acting career.

Robbie performs splendidly and proves her competence as a leading lady with her character, who had a major role in creating suspense and tension. Her charisma swoons the audience with glimpses of her comedic side.

As expected with two Hollywood hotties, there is romance. Thankfully the writers and directors, Glen Ficcara and John Requea, avoided cheap rating-boosts by submerging the audience in the dangers and independence of criminal life, rather than having the entire film spent in a cheap hotel bedroom.

As far as the script goes, expect the witty banter that is common of Hollywood's sophisticated criminals. Although it is engaging at first, the jargon drivel becomes annoyingly repetitive as the movie wraps up.

While the film is worth seeing, it isn't exceptional. It suffers from a number of crime film clichés including cheesy lines; prolonged, serious glares; and the token funny, fat guy, Adrian Martinez, who plays a loyal friend to Smith's character. Viewers can expect to see the glorification of criminal lifestyles that has seemingly assumed a permanent position on the recent marquee with blockbusters like Wolf of Wall Street and The Gambler.

Director: Glenn Ficarra, John Requa
Run Time: 105 minutes
Rating: R



Facebook

The movie "Focus" stars Will Smith and Margot Robbie and was released on Feb. 27. The movie earned 18.6 million dollars during its opening weekend.

Despite dawdling into sub-culture stereotypes, "Focus" will hold viewers' concentration until summer's heavy hitters and is worth all the ramen college students will have to eat to make up for the $40 night out.

Daily 49er

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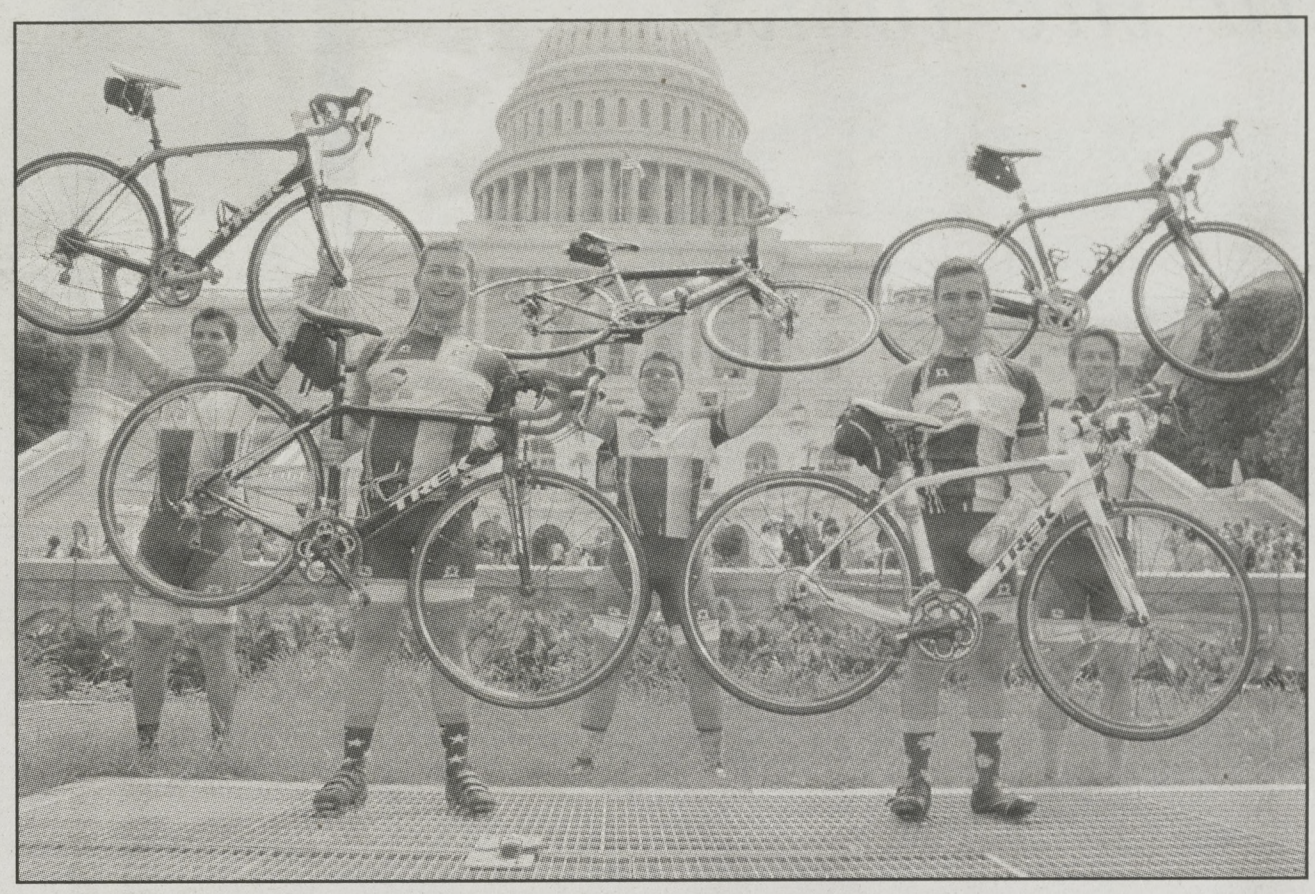
BIKING

continued from page 1

ued to pedal on with his team feeling confident. Ratner remembered the team chemistry that kept him and his fellow bikers going, and he said that some of the best conversations of their lives were on their bikes.

"Even though we all came from different parts of the country bearing different views in politics, sports and hobbies," Brian Bott, a member of Pi Kappa Phi from George Mason University and Ratner's teammate, said. "We were all there for the common cause to help raise money and spread awareness for people with disabilities, which instantly brought us closer together."

The living situations at the end of a long day weren't the most ideal, but Ratner said it humbled him and his teammates. Ratner and his team weathered through cold nights on the grounds of The Salvation Army, YMCA and churches.



Left, Brandon Ratner, center, celebrates with his team after reaching the final destination in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 2, 2014. Below, Brandon Ratner speaks with a member of the Stone Belt facility in Bloomington, Indiana last summer.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDON RATNER

> **We want to continue to prove to the world that the only disability in life is a bad attitude**
>
> *-Brandon Ratner, Member, Pi Kappa Phi*

"The most interesting night was in Du Bois, Wyoming. I remember falling asleep underneath a church pew in my sleeping bag and realizing the incredibly unique trip I was participating in," Ratner said.

Although Ratner was states away from his family and friends, he made sure to contact them whenever he could find service or Wi-Fi. Ratner's father, Howard, surprised him halfway through the trip in Denver, Colorado, which Ratner said was a good morale booster.

"I could see how well he was doing," Howard said. "[I could see] how much he loved his friendship visits, how much he loved all of his teammates and how much fun he was having."

Although the Journey of Hope ride was one of the most challenging experiences Ratner said he has ever had, he promised, "I have not been as happy as I was last summer."

Ratner said fraternities are rarely celebrated for the positive impacts they make on the community through philanthropy, yet philanthropy was a main reason for why he decided to join Pi Kappa Phi.

"For many of [Pi Kappa Phi members], the philanthropic efforts of the Fraternity is one of the most important aspects of the organization and is the reason a lot of us decided to join," Ratner said. "As brothers, we can be the change we wish by raising funds and awareness for organizations in our community."

This summer, Ratner will travel with a Pi Kappa Phi brother to guide and assist blind and visually impaired athletes on a climb up the highest peaks of the San Juan Mountains.

"We want to continue to prove to the world that the only disability in life is a bad attitude," Ratner said.





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A New War Is Here
What your Teachers will not tell you

Dr. George A. Kuck (galbertk@aol.com)

It appears that the Democratic Party and its leaders have gone back to their roots where prior to the US Civil War they tried to have our country expand slavery to our new states. John Brown must be turning over in his grave to see how far we have fallen. Wake up Californians to the heritage of our blue uniformed Republican forefathers. Slavery is on the march again from the heart of Africa to the Middle East - from Boko Haram soldiers enslaving black girls to the radical Islamists in Iraq and Syria selling Yazidi Moslem and Christian women as sex slaves. These people are evil. They burn people alive and loot wherever they set their feet. They have revived barbaric practices where they set their enemies on fire, crucify Christians in Iraq, and separate the heads of Christians from their bodies in Libya. Islamic radicals are pledged to overcome liberty and freedom worldwide. We did not believe Hitler prior to WW II. Why do we not learn from history and listen to what the radical Islamists are saying? King Abdullah II of Jordan and Egyptian President Abdel el-Sissi of Egypt have heard them and rejected their fanatic calls for jihad. Why donâ€™t we follow their lead and actually do something substantive to overcome evil? The Democrats are waffling in the new isolationism. The choice is clear, fight evil or let it grow. Go back to your roots and vote REPUBLICAN.

Beyond the locks

MICHELLE VAZQUEZ
Contributing Writer

Hair may be just fashion to some, but to others, it is a way to represent culture and history.

Last week, after the Oscars, E! News anchor Giuliana Rancic sparked controversy when she said that Zendaya Coleman's dreadlocks looked like they smelled of "patchouli oil" and "weed" on the program called "Fashion Police."

Coleman responded to Rancic's comments via Twitter saying the statements were "ignorant slurs and pure disrespect."

In reality, the controversy was not about a hairstyle choice. It was about people of color—African Americans in this case – and the way they express their culture.

Several people voiced their opinions on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, often saying they do not see why Rancic's comment was a big deal. They are unaware that the comments come from racial stereotypes that have negative effects on the black community.

"But when I looked up patchouli oil it didn't reference black people, it said it was a reference to hippies [who] use it to cover up the smell of a no baths and weed," Facebook user Susan Teran commented on Feb. 27. "How did it get racial? She was talking about the dreads."

"Zendaya acts like a drama queen," Facebook user Lorrie Taylor-Garcia commented. "Get over yourself."

English and American studies professor at the University of Richmond, Bert Ashe, appeared on NPR Boston to talk about Rancic's comments and express his thoughts on the issue.

"Dreadlocks is the sort of hairstyle that provokes comments, it provokes reactions, it provokes the sorts of stereotypes that Racic unfortunately used," Ashe said.

He explained that these stereotypes come from the connections between dreadlocks and Rastafarians in Jamaica, where they began. These perceived connections were extended to marijuana, which Rastafarians used to make money, and finally to reggae music as it became more popular, where these connections were solidified.

Racial stereotypes are the real issue in the comments made about the young Disney star's hairstyle.

Chair of the Africana studies department at California State University, Long Beach Maulana Karenga said via email that people do not see how offensive their comments can really be.

"People in power or in privileged and advantaged positions hardly ever interrogate and criticize themselves, not to mention condemn themselves," Karenga said.

Coleman's response to the comments were dignity-affirming, but were doing much more than just admiring black hair, they were "a reaffirmation of the strength, beauty and dignity of Black people," Karenga said.

Rancic, who later apologized, meant to poke fun at Zendaya, but her comment ended up criticizing an entire ethnic group.

Some may think that those offended by the comments are being dramatic or playing the race card, but they are not.

People are so blinded by their own preconceived notions that they do not question what they think or where those thoughts come from.

"We can only persuade narrow-minded people to think differently about locks and Black hair in all forms if we can convince them to think differently and more ethically and humanely about Black people, themselves," Karenga said in an email.

The issue is not really about Zendaya's hairstyle at the Oscars; it is about the much larger problem of racial stereotypes, which perpetuate racial inequalities.

"Whatever small reforms and adjustments we make in instances like these, the larger problems of systemic racial domination, deprivation and degradation must be effectively addressed," Karenga said.

Michelle Vazquez is a junior majoring in journalism.



Zendaya arrives at the 87th Academy Awards held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA, USA, February 22, 2015.

IAN WEST | PA WIRE

Stay in your lane

NICCA PANGGAT
Contributing Writer

Freshmen and transfer students learn every year at orientation that California State University, Long Beach has a campus larger than Disneyland.

It makes perfect sense, then, that tons of students, faculty and staff ride their bikes to, from and across campus.

If SB-192 passes into law, it would mean mandatory helmets for all of those riders, not just the ones under the age of 18. It would also mean that retro-reflective, high-visibility safety apparel must be worn after dark.

Those who are found violating the bill's stipulations will be fined $25 for the trouble.

California State Sen. Carol Liu, the face behind SB-192, said in a press release that "any responsible bicycle rider should wear a helmet" and that her law would "make sure all riders benefit from the head protection that a helmet provides."

It is obvious to any responsible bicyclist that helmets are beneficial. That still does not mean that they should be made mandatory.

Helmets on cyclists are not a bad idea, but making them an absolute requirement isn't the best way to fight for the safety of cyclists. Those who don't wear them have special cause.

Fining those cyclists who choose not to wear helmets would only serve to make less people want to go out and bike, an exercise that betters personal health.

"[Bicycling] benefits far outweigh its risks," said Ryan Price, the campaigns director of the California Bicycle Coalition. "Promoting bicycling saves lives by reducing risk of death from the diseases of our sedentary culture. And it's also a safe activity that is getting safer."

According to the California Bicycle Coalition, the risk of bicycling injury in California has dropped by 42 percent since 2000.

The proper retro-reflective high-visibility clothing component included in SB-192 is just as difficult to enforce as the proposed helmet mandate.

But what does that mean for cyclists who get caught in traffic at dusk? Or who push through that extra mile and end up biking after dark by accident?

Casual ridership would become discouraged if those cyclists riding on the beach or to the grocery store couldn't head home after sunset unless they were lucky enough to remember to pack the proper clothing that morning. Even on campus, where no one has the ability to ride at over 10 miles per hour, the population of student cyclists would likely drop if they couldn't go from Peterson Hall to the library without covering up their head.

The effort and expense backing SB-192 would be better spent in other avenues that actually serve to make those cyclists safer. For example, cyclists could make greater use of mandatory bike lanes or reduced speed limits on streets with heavy bike traffic. Even better, putting the money toward a course that teaches drivers and cyclists how to drive and ride safely would be extremely helpful.

Making bicycle helmets mandatory will only hinder potential cyclists from a more healthful version of alternative transport.

Helmets are not a bad idea at all. Most cyclists who ride in the presence of traffic actually do wear them. But for a state where beach communities and bike ownership are so common, we'd be better off with laws that don't make cycling more difficult.

Nicca Panggat is a sophomore majoring in journalism.

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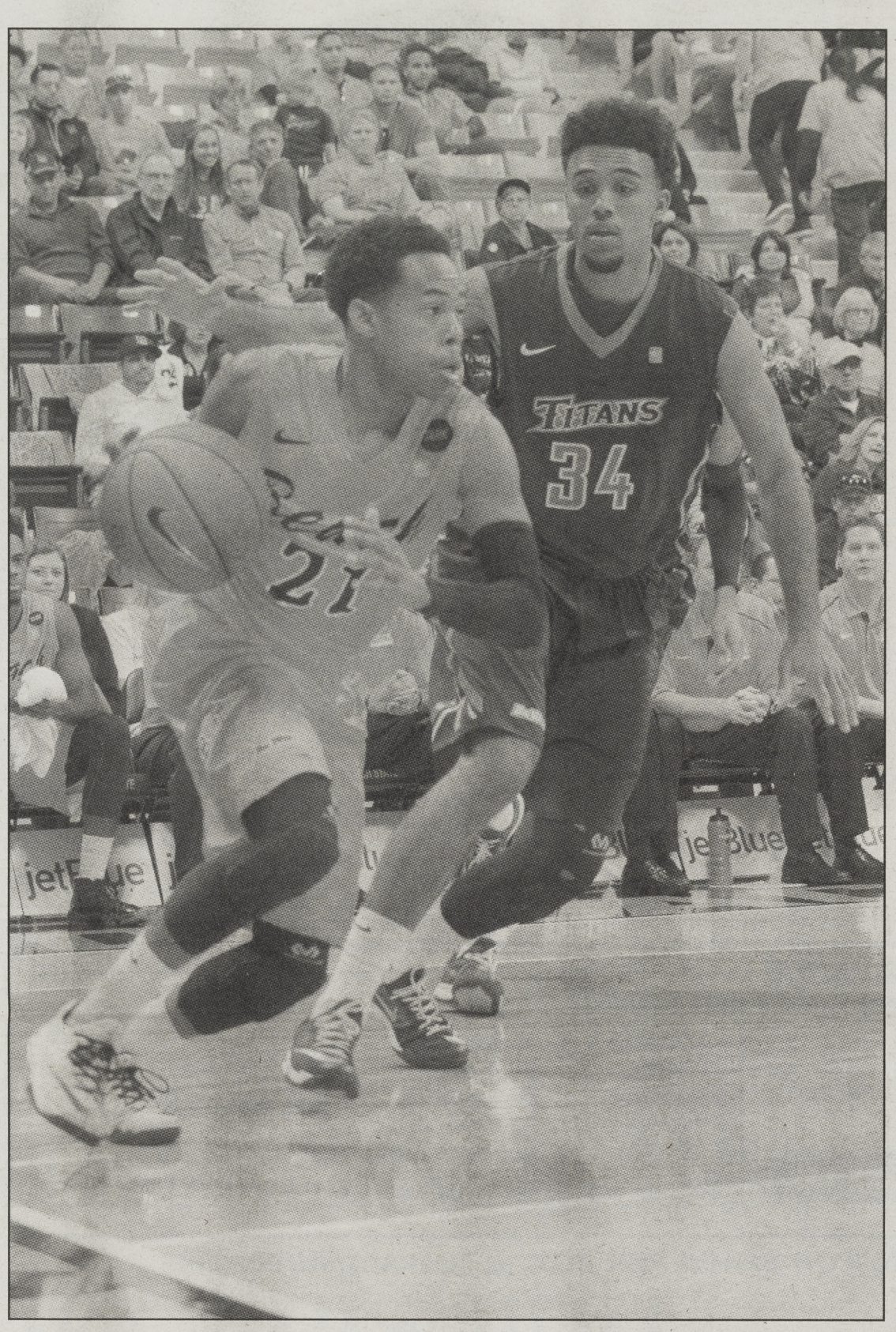
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BASKETBALL



MICHAEL ARES | DAILY 49ER

Long Beach State guard Justin Bibbins drives down the baseline against Cal State Fullerton forward Temjae Singleton on Feb. 28 in the Walter Pyramid.

Seniors step out

Five 49er seniors play their final game inside the Walter Pyramid before postgame ceremony.

BY OSCAR TERRONES
Sports Editor

In its final home game of the season, the Long Beach State men's basketball team will host Cal State Northridge on Thursday for Senior Night inside the Walter Pyramid.

With just two games left, the 49ers (16-18, 8-6) are eliminated from the regular season title race. Head coach Dan Monson said it has been difficult on the coaching staff and team not having the opportunity to win league.

"As I told our guys the other day, in the competitive picture it's tough," Monson said. "[But] in the big picture of getting better and trying to win the league tournament and trying to the get to the NCAA [Tournament], we can use that adversity and make it a positive."

The emergence of sophomore guard Travis Hammonds, who got his first start of the season in the 70-47 Feb. 28 win against Cal State Fullerton, has given the 49ers the third scorer they have lacked for much of the season. Hammonds scored a season-high 16 points against the Titans.

"It's not too late [to make a run in the Big West Tournament]," Monson said. "Hopefully the Travis that we expected to have all year will give us the game we know he's capable of in March."

Hammonds only played 21 minutes in the win, but he said he was ready to play however many minutes Monson and the team needed.

"I'm capable of playing 30 minutes," Hammonds said. "Do I need to play 30 minutes? Probably not, because we have a good team. We have players that are picking it up. We have players that are playing for others now. But when it's my time to go I'll [be ready]."

The 49ers are coming their best offensive performance in their last eight games. Senior point guard Mike Caffey said he thinks the team figured how to get to the rim easier against Fullerton and that will help them moving forward.

"[Our shooting] opened up the floor because we had a couple guys making shots," Caffey said. "We got Travis and [senior guard] McKay LaSalle going. [Fullerton] was focusing more on them, which opened it up for me. It gave me some room to get some shots up and get something going for me."

The 49ers will honor their five departing seniors against Cal State Northridge (9-22, 4-11): Caffey, guards Tyler Lamb and LaSalle, and forwards David Samuels and Eric McKnight. The athletic department is planning a postgame ceremony for the five players.

LBSU is going for the season sweep of Northridge after beating the Matadors 64-58 on Jan. 24. Samuels led the way against CSUN with a double-double, scoring 16 points while grabbing 11 boards.

Senior forwards Stephan Hicks and Stephen Maxwell are the offensive leaders for the Matadors. Hicks and Maxwell are CSUN's top two scorers at 16 and 14.5 points per game, respectively.

The 49ers will host CSUN on Thursday for Senior Night inside the Walter

PAYBACK ON SENIOR NIGHT

LBSU women's basketball will look to get revenge on the Matadors from a 67-52 home loss.

BY WILLIAM HERNANDEZ
Assistant Sports Editor

Two points shy of 1000 career points, senior guard Lauren Spargo will lead the Long Beach women's basketball team in its last two games of the season starting Thursday at Cal State Northridge.

"It's just exciting, to know that I was a college basketball player that accomplished something," Spargo said. "It's pretty special. I'm going to walk out of here feeling good about what I did."

Spargo will likely join fellow senior Alex Sanchez as members of the 1000 career point club when LBSU hosts UC Riverside (16-12, 7-7) on Saturday. Sanchez reached the milestone on Jan. 29 in a 72-64 loss at Hawaii.

As part of Senior Night, the 49ers will honor their three seniors against UCR: Spargo, Sanchez and Hallie Meneses.

"To know that it's our last time playing at home in front of our crowd, it's bittersweet," Meneses said, "I've been cherishing the moments, so at shoot around I just try to stay loose and enjoy my teammates company because I'll never be around this group of girls again."

After four years and countless hours spent together, Wynn said the three seniors were outstanding role models for their teammates.

"They're three of the hardest workers and three of the most loyal players," Wynn said. "They're our best leaders. All three gave their hearts for LBSU and represented themselves well off the court."

LBSU is going into a pivotal match up against second-placed CSUN (20-9, 10-5) with an extra chip on its shoulder after the Matadors snapped the 49ers' 15-game winning streak on Jan. 24.

"We have a three-game losing streak against [CSUN]," senior point guard Hallie Meneses said. "For us it could be the last time playing them. [are we not ending this quote? does it just go on in perpetuity]

The last time the 49ers managed to beat the Matadors was Feb. 9, 2013 when they won 70-63. That fact has LBSU locked in on its opponent and focused on what's still at stake.

"Of course this game is big for us," Meneses said. "We're still jockeying for position. We need people to step up. We had [freshman Cecily Wilson] and Spargo step up against Fullerton. It's nothing we haven't seen before."

The 49ers and Matadors will square off at 7 p.m. on Thursday night. Tip-off for Saturday's final home game of the season is set for 4 p.m.

LOSS TO LIONS

continued from page 1

Brenton Arriaga gave up two hits and two walks in the third. The Dirtbags scored again in the fourth as sophomore first basemen Daniel Jackson drove one to centerfield for an RBI single to take the lead 4-3.

Junior right-hander Ryan Cruz had seven strikeouts on the night, but also gave up seven hits and three earned runs through six innings.

"I just stuck to my game and kept pitching," Cruz said. "All you can pretty much do is hit the reset button."

Junior right-hander Trey Ferketic replaced Cruz to begin the seventh and promptly gave the Lions the lead. Ferketic hit sophomore Ted Boeke and freshman Jamey Smart, then gave up a double to sophomore Austin Miller to give the Lions the lead 5-4.

Ferketic walked two more batters before he was pulled for freshman left-hander Keola Paragas, who proceeded to hit another Lions batter to give Loyola Marymount the 6-4 lead.

"[Ferketic has been] kind of been a little Jekyll & Hyde throughout the whole fall," Buckley said.

The Dirtbags were able to score a couple more runs in the bottom of the ninth to pull within a run. Banuelos, who finished with three RBI, had a chance to tie the game with a runner at second but grounded out to end the game.

"My goal was to be ready for the fastball," Banuelos said. "But then I got the slider, and that was the game."